

Environmental Services



Department Description

The Environmental Services Department ensures that all residents of San Diego are provided with a clean, safe, and ecologically-sound environment. The Department pursues waste management strategies that emphasize waste reduction and recycling, composting, and environmentally-sound landfill management to meet the City's long-term disposal needs; oversees the management of the City's energy use and programs, and explores innovative options to increase energy independence; and works to advance more sustainable practices within the City and community.

The Collection Services Division provides weekly residential refuse collection, bi-weekly curbside collection of recyclable commodities and greens materials, and the collection and maintenance of street litter containers in business districts.

The Energy, Sustainability, and Environmental Protection Division provides technical assistance and project implementation for energy conservation and renewable energy, hazardous materials management, under and above ground storage tank engineering, lead and asbestos compliance, hazardous substances enforcement at the Miramar Landfill, household hazardous waste collection, and the San Diego Sustainable Community Program.

The Waste Reduction and Disposal Division provides education and technical assistance to residents and business owners within the City of San Diego on how to recycle and reduce waste, provides opportunities for recycling and reducing solid waste, enforces solid waste codes, and operates a full service landfill for public use.

The Office of the Director facilitates the Department's delivery of quality environmental programs through the provision of administrative and regulatory support.

The Department's mission is:

To provide environmental services to sustain and improve the quality of life in San Diego

Goals and Objectives

The following goals and objectives represent the action plan for the Department.

Goal 1: Provide efficient and sustainable solid waste collection and disposal for the City of San Diego

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The City of San Diego is responsible for providing solid waste collection services to all eligible residents and small businesses within the City limits. The Miramar Landfill, the only active landfill operated by the City, is projected (at current disposal tonnages) to close in 2012. The Department will move toward accomplishing this goal by focusing on the following objective.

- Evaluate regional options for solid waste management and develop plans to meet the City of San Diego's long-term disposal needs

Goal 2: Maximize recycling in all sectors including construction, commercial, industrial, governmental, and single and multi-family homes

It is a priority to increase the overall recycling and waste diversion and to extend the life of the Miramar Landfill. City ordinances have been approved by the City Council to address diversion of construction and demolition materials, and recycling for commercial including City buildings, multi-family and single family sectors, as well as special events to distribute the responsibility for recycling to all sectors of the community. The Department will move toward accomplishing this goal by focusing on the following objectives.

- Implement the City Recycling Ordinance
- Implement the Construction and Demolition Ordinance

Goal 3: Expand public, private, and community-based partnerships to increase sustainable practices city-wide

The City must pursue activities and programs that protect, restore, and sustain the environment and natural resources. The Department will move toward accomplishing this goal by focusing on the following objective.

- Implement a grant to address challenges and barriers to increasing solar energy in the San Diego region to develop a local model that can be replicated nationwide

Service Efforts and Accomplishments

Energy, Sustainability, and Environmental Protection, through a power purchase agreement with a private partner, installed a one megawatt photovoltaic system at the Alvarado Water Treatment Plant that provides 20 percent of its power needs.

The Hazardous Materials Management Program continued its public-private partnerships collecting more than 74,500 gallons of used oil and 14,600 pounds of oil filters at 16 certified used oil collection centers.

The Household Hazardous Waste Transfer Facility, while serving over 8,400 homes, diverted more than 430 tons of hazardous waste from the landfill.

The Miramar Landfill, the first municipally-operated landfill in the nation to earn ISO 14001 certification, achieved recertification for the fifth consecutive year.

Budget Dollars at Work: Performance Expectations

Goal 1: Provide efficient and sustainable solid waste collection and disposal for the City of San Diego

| Performance Measure | Baseline FY2007 | Actual FY2008 | Target FY2009 |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Customer satisfaction from City-wide survey | N/A | N/A ¹ | TBD |
| 2. Status of ISO 14001 environmental management certification | Certification maintained | Certification maintained | Maintain certification |
| 3. Number of State Minimum Standard Notice of Violations (NOVs) received | 6 ² | 2 | 0 |
| 4. Complaints per 10,000 refuse, recycling, and greenery | 11 | 8 | 0 |

¹ Resident Satisfaction Survey to be implemented in January 2009

² Calendar Year 2006

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| Performance Measure | Baseline FY2007 | Actual FY2008 | Target FY2009 |
|--------------------------|--------------------|------------------|------------------|
| service collection stops | | | |

Goal 2: Maximize recycling in all sectors including construction, commercial, industrial, governmental, special events, and single and multi-family homes

| Performance Measure | Baseline FY2007 | Actual FY2008 | Target FY2009 |
|---|--------------------|------------------|------------------|
| 1. Diversion rate of recycled materials from disposal | 52% | 55% | 55% |

Goal 3: Expand public, private, and community-based partnerships to increase sustainable practices city-wide

| Performance Measure | Baseline FY2007 | Actual FY2008 | Target FY2009 |
|---|--------------------|------------------|------------------|
| 1. Renewable energy realized through projects at municipal facilities (toward City goal of installing five megawatts of renewable energy sources by 2013) | 1.2 megawatts | 1.2 megawatts | 3.0 megawatts |

Budget Dollars at Work: Sizing and Workload Data

| | Actual FY2005 | Actual FY2006 | Actual FY2007 | Actual FY2008 | Target FY2009 |
|---|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Workload Data | | | | | |
| Number of refuse collection stops ³ | 16.0M | 16.0M | 15.8M | 15.8M | 15.8M |
| Number of households served with bi-weekly curbside recycling collection ¹ | 276,000 | 276,000 | 254,000 | 255,000 | 254,000 |
| Number of energy accounting bills processed | 37,230 | 38,160 | 37,869 | 34,800 | 37,800 |
| Square feet of City buildings inspected for asbestos and lead | 166,060 | 270,196 | 291,941 | 290,196 | 242,732 |
| Number of City staff trainings conducted on hazardous materials management regulations | 1,201 | 2,595 | 2,205 | 1,892 | 2,100 |
| Tons of household hazardous waste collected | 517 | 533 | 487 | 532 | 515 |
| Number of underground storage tanks systems that were certified accordance with State regulations | 71 | 69 | 67 | 70 | 67 |
| Tons of waste received for disposal and diversion at the Miramar Landfill | 1.69M | 1.6M | 1.4M | 1.3M | 1.4M |
| Average number of transactions processed daily at the Miramar Landfill fee booth | 1,744 | 1,745 | 1,608 | 1,440 | 1,600 |
| Number of service calls received through the Customer Service Center | 340,000 | 287,000 | 308,000 | 291,000 | 297,000 |
| Tons of material recycled at the Miramar Recycling Center | 13,600 | 14,000 | 15,500 | 18,000 | 16,500 |
| Number of customers served at the Miramar Recycling Center | 83,000 | 99,000 | 99,000 | 115,000 | 115,000 |
| Number of Christmas trees collected and processed into mulch and compost products | 141,000 | 148,000 | 130,000 | 140,000 | 143,000 |
| Tons of curbside recyclables collected | 70,000 | 71,000 | 80,900 | 80,000 | 82,500 |
| Number of illegal dumps removed from 3,000 miles of street and alley rights-of-way | 12,300 | 10,800 | 12,200 | 13,000 | 12,000 |

³ Figures differ due to data system refinement during Fiscal Year 2007